

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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USOAS:AMB. JOVA

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TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CU, BR, VE

SUBJECT: CUBA IN THE OAS - VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 5220 (B) BRASILIA 5279

(C) KINGSTON 2745

1. WE OF COURSE SHARE BRAZILIAN VIEW ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF CENTRAL AMERICANS, WHO AS NATIONS MOST AFFECTED BY CUBAN ATTITUDES HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN AMONG THE SUPPORTERS OF MAINTAINING SANCTIONS. FOR THIS REASON WE HAVE DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT TO OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH FACIO. BEYOND THAT WE THINK BRAZILIANS SHOULD KNOW THAT NICARAGUANS, DESPITE CUBAN RELIEF EFFORTS, ARE QUITE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE. SOME OTHER CENTRAL AMERICANS, INCLUDING GUATEMALA, SEEMED TO BE WAVERING (NOT

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SO MUCH TO SUPPORT VENEZUELAN BUT TOWARDS ABSTENTION)

AND WE ARE NOW WAITING RESULTS OF FURTHER DEMARCHES IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

2. VENEZUELAN OAS AMBASSADOR GARCIA BUSTILLOS HAS JUST RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR JOVA EXPRESSED OUR OPPOSITION TO VENEZUELAN FORMULA AND TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO ASK HIM WHERE INITIATIVE STOOD. GARCIA BUSTILLOS EXPRESSED QTE PERSONAL OPINION UNQTE THAT VENEZUELAN WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT INTRODUCE RESOLUTION IN OAS COUNCIL UNLESS THEY HAD TWELVE VOTES, AND DOUBTED THAT AT THIS

TIME THEY HAD THE DESIRED TWELVE. BUT EVEN IF THEY DID NOT, HE SAID, VENEZUELAN DEMARCHE WAS CREATING ENVIRONMENT FOR RELAXING SANCTIONS AT A SOMEWHAT LATER DATE. WE SHOULD NOTE THAT VENEZUELA COULD PROCEED UNILATERALLY TO RECOGNIZE CUBA, AS PERUVIANS DID, OR EVENTUALLY GO AHEAD WITH THEIR INITIATIVE ON BASIS THAT ELEVEN VOTES IS ALMOST AS GOOD AS TWELVE. VENEZUELAN NOW CLAIM COMMITMENT FROM COLOMBIA (CARACAS 7116) BUT COSTA RICA IS WITHHOLDING SUPPORT ON JURIDICAL GROUNDS (SAN JOSE 2927).

3. WE ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PRESENCE HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN WASHINGTON ON OTHER MATTERS TO AGAIN URGE THEM TO VOTE AGAINST INITIATIVE SHOULD VENEZUELAN BRING IT UP IN OAS COUNCIL. ROGERS

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